



USAID Avian Influenza Program

Key Messages on Prevention and Control of Animal-to-Animal Transmission of Avian Influenza

There is a new serious disease that is killing poultry called avian influenza (or the H5N1 virus, or bird flu). It is spread in the droppings and fluids of birds that have it. Poultry and humans can get the disease from the droppings, mucus, blood, or feathers of infected wild or domestic birds. If you are a farmer or have contact with poultry or other birds in your yard or community, there are many ways to protect your animals from avian influenza. Here are some of the ways:

Report sick and dead poultry to the authorities.

- Report instances of sudden death among poultry immediately.
- Report instances of sickness in your poultry immediately.

Separate your poultry from wild birds and any domestic birds that might come into contact with wild birds.

- Keep all poultry in a fenced area or enclosed building, away from other animals and wild birds.
- Keep your chickens separated from any ducks or other birds that roam free.
- Keep poultry away from any source of water that could have been contaminated by wild birds.
- Keep poultry brought to the farm/homestead from outside separate from your flock for at least 14 days.

Regularly clean the areas where poultry are kept.

- Clean or sweep feces and unconsumed feed from the yard every day.
- Burn or bury feathers and other waste away from the farmyard. Bury waste deep and with lime so that scavengers do not dig it up.
- Allow manure to decompose for several weeks to allow any virus to die before using the manure as fertilizer.
- Clean small farm equipment daily.

Don't bring contamination from other farms or markets.

- If your poultry does not sell at the market, keep the birds separate for at least 14 days before you return them to the rest of your flock.
- Make sure you brush or wash off your shoes and the wheels of your bicycle/motorcycle and change clothing after coming back from farms or live-bird markets so you don't carry the virus home on your clothing, shoes, or equipment.
- Clean or disinfect anything coming into the farm that may have had contact with poultry or poultry droppings outside the farm. This includes clothing, tools, and equipment such as cages, bicycle, and automobile tires.
- Do not borrow equipment or vehicles from other farms.
- Do not transport live or dead chickens, ducks, or other poultry from one place to another, even if you think your birds are healthy.
- Handling of poultry in areas affected by avian influenza should be carried out within the area and not by transporting the poultry to other areas.
- Don't bring other animals, such as chicks, ducklings, or piglets, from another farm.

If you find any dead or sick birds, contact the authorities in your area immediately.

- Dead birds should be placed in a bag or other container away from other animals until the authorities can inspect the situation.
- If you see one or more birds that look sick, don't leave them in the yard. Take them out of the flock using gloves and place them in a closed cage. Then contact the paravet or agriculture extension worker (or other authorities) immediately.
- Dead birds should not be thrown in a river, pond, or other body of water.

If you are involved in culling activities, practice safe and humane culling procedures.

- Process each lot of birds separately and clean and disinfect poultry houses between flocks.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment and vehicles (including tires and undercarriage) entering and leaving the farm.
- Practice good biosecurity – use personal protective equipment and disinfectant.